Mobile rates of MTNL

†1721. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rates of mobile phones of the MTNL are equivalent to the rates of the mobile phones of other private companies;

(b) the details regarding status of the use of the services of MTNL *vis-a-vis* other private companies; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) MTNL is offering alternate packages to its customers which are highly competitive and comparable to private operators.

(b) and (c) The details regarding status of the use of the services of MTNL vis-a-vis other private companies as on 31-10-2003 are given in the State (*See below*).

Statement

Details of subscribers base in Delhi & Mumbai as on 31-10-2003

DELHI

Operators	Fixed Lines	WLL	Cellular Mobile	Total
MTNL	21,13,371	60,679	1,56,316	23,30,366
Bharati Cellular/Bharti Telenet Ltd.	69,466	—	12,48,091	13,17,557
Sterling Cellular Ltd.	—	—	9,16,268	9,16,268
IDEA Cellular	—	—	3,57,677	3,57,677
Tata Tele services	4272	1,48,665	—	1,52,937
Reliance Infocomm.	—	6,33,710	—	6,33,710
TOTAL				57,08,505

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

MUMBAI

Operators	Fixed Lines	WLL	Cellular Mobile	Total
MTNL	23,40,199	48,379	1,65,721	25,54,299
BPL Mobile	—	—	7,74,945	7,74,945
Hutchison	—	—	9,05,770	9,05,770
Bharati Cellular	—	—	4,10,899	4,10,899
Tata Tele services	2,90,783	—	—	2,90,783
Reliance Infocomm.	—	5,59,928	—	5,59,928
TOTAL				54,96,624

Official procedure for blocking of Websites

1722. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have outlines an official procedure for blocking websites;

(b) if so, under which section of the IT Act Government have issued such procedure; and

(c) whether this official procedure does not mean censoring the websites?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The procedure for blocking of websites has been issued under Sections 87 and 88 of the IT Act.

(c) No, Sir. The blocking of websites as per the Government notifications is only considered based on a complaint filed by any of the designated offices of the Government. Blocking of websites required in public interest amounts to balanced flow of information and not censorship.